The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday the 15th day of March 1922, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Railway communication between Tellicherry and Coorg, Mysore, etc.

1369 Q.—Mr. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the address presented to His Excellency Lord Willingdon by the Municipal Council, Tellicherry, on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to that town, whether anything has been done to provide railway communication between Tellicherry and Coorg, Mysore and Manantoddy?

A.—The reconnaissance survey of a line of railway from Shoranur to Manantoddy with a branch to Tellicherry has been completed and the report thereon received from the Agent, South Indian Railway, but there is no near prospect of railway communications with Tellicherry reaching the stage of actual construction.

Confidential reports in the Medical department.

1370 Q.—Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR-RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether confidential reports about the conduct and work of the following officers are maintained in the Medical department:—

(*a*) I.M.S. officers, and
(*b*) Provincial Civil Medical officers;

(ii) whether it is a fact that the confidential reports of I.M.S. officers are shown to them and their signatures taken in the reports before they are finally filed in the Office of the Surgeon-General;

(iii) whether it is a fact that there is no provision to obtain the signatures of Provincial Civil Medical officers in their confidential reports before they are finally filed;

(iv) why this invidious distinction is made in the case of officers of one and the same department;

(v) whether there is a rule in the Civil Medical Code that, when a Provincial Medical officer is transferred from one district to another, a confidential report should also accompany him to the new district; and

(vi) whether it is a fact that this rule is acting detrimentally to the interests of such Medical officers by not allowing them to commence their service in their new districts with a clean slate?

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A.—(i) The answer is in the affirmative.

(ii) Yes, but the reports are filed in the office of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, and not in that of the Surgeon-General.

(iii) Yes. But Reporting officers are required to see that all unfavourable remarks are communicated to the Medical officers and that they are not kept in ignorance for any length of time, of such unfavourable remarks.

(iv) There is no invidious distinction.

(v) Yes. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 251 of the Civil Medical Code.

(vi) The rule cannot act detrimentally to the interests of any Medical officer. A good officer has nothing to fear from it, and a bad officer is given a chance of mending his ways, which he would not get, if he were not warned.

II

MOTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES OF MR. E. S. MONTAGU.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I thank you in the first place for allowing me to make this motion. The motion that I would like to place before the Council runs thus :

This Council wishes to express its warm appreciation of the invaluable services that the Rt. Hon. Mr. Montagu has rendered in furthering the cause of Indian progress and his strenuous advocacy of the interests of the Indian Muslims in the settlement of the Near Eastern problems. This council further expresses its deep concern at the termination of his office at this critical juncture in the affairs of India.

" Sir, the announcement of the resignation of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Montagu contained in the newspapers of Friday last came to us as a great surprise and also as a painful surprise to the country. Even though it was said by a conservative Prime Minister that good government is no substitute for self-government and even though it was one of the accepted principles of liberalism that all governments should be for the people and by the people, Lord Morley, who represented the high water-mark of liberalism in his day, stated in the year 1909 that he could not foresee the time when India could be self-governing. But it was left to the Rt. Hon. Mr. Montagu within a few weeks of his assumption of the office of the Secretary of State for India to make that historic announcement of the 20th August 1917 that the proximate goal of Indian Government was self-government. Well, Sir, the circumstances that were then existing helped the announcement that was made. It may be that the announcement was made owing to the exigencies of the war and also owing to the changed angle of vision due to the experience of the war but we cannot forget the personal element and the personal influence of the gentleman who made the announcement itself He not only made the announcement, but even during the war when the hands of the Government were preoccupied with the making of arrangements for the successful prosecution of the war, he even found time to come to India to make inquiries and set us on the way to self-government. Well, Sir, both with regard to the announcement that was made and with regard to the arrangements made for starting us on the path of self-government, there is hesitancy perceivable